



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Malheur
National
Forest

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File Code: 1950

Date: March 31, 2006

Dear Forest User:

The Malheur National Forest invites you to comment on the proposed Malheur National Forest Invasive Plants Treatment project. The Forest proposes to treat approximately 3,800 acres of invasive plants located across the 1.7 million acre National Forest. It is anticipated that approximately 800 acres of both existing and newly discovered sites would be treated in any year. The proposed treatment methods includes: manual pulling or use of hand tools, use of mechanical hand tools, herbicide, cultural methods such as grazing or mulching, and biological controls. The Forest is not proposing to use aerially applied herbicide treatments on any acres. The method used would depend on resource protection concerns for a given site. A detailed project description is attached.

When reviewing the proposed action, bear in mind that the Forest has been operating under the Mediated Agreement and Records of Decision (1988 & 1992) for the Final Environmental Impact Statement (Vegetation Management, FEIS) for Managing Competing and Unwanted Vegetation. Treatments under this agreement have been primarily by manual control methods. Monitoring has indicated that this approach is not successful. In 2005 the Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Region completed and implemented the *Pacific Northwest Region Invasive plant Program FEIS* providing new direction and updating the herbicides that would be permitted for use in the Region. The new herbicides offer many advantages over the more limited set allowed previously, including greater selectivity, less harm to desired vegetation, reduced application rates, and lower toxicity to animals and people. The proposed treatments will be guided by this FEIS. The most useful comments to developing or refining the proposed action would be site specific concerns and those that can help us develop treatments that would be responsive to our goal to treat invasive plants as well as being cost effective. Prevention measures have already been built into the Regional Invasive Plant EIS and will be implemented with all actions occurring on the Forest. The purpose of this proposed action is to begin treatments on known invasive plant sites and provide a mechanism to respond rapidly when new infestations are discovered.

Instructions for making comments:


We want to be aware of and responsive to, any issues, comments or concerns you may have specific to this project. Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted until **May 1, 2006**. Written comments should be submitted to: Stan Benes, Acting Forest Supervisor, Malheur National Forest, P.O. Box 909, John Day, OR 97845. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Comments can be faxed to 541-575-3013.



Electronic comments should be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message or as an attachment in Microsoft Word, rich text format, or portable document format only and sent to comments-pacificnorthwest-malheur@fs.fed.us. The proposed action is also available on the Malheur National Forest web page at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/malheur/projects/index.shtml> including a link to the electronic comments address. If you need further information about this project please contact Carole Holly, phone (541) 575-3026.

Thank you for taking time to review this project. Your comments, concerns, and observations about this area are important to the development of the final project.

Sincerely,



ROGER W. WILLIAMS
Forest Supervisor

Enclosures